

CHILE - SECRETS OF CHILE



TRIP CODE

CLTSSOC

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Chile



INTRODUCTION

[Choose this Tailor-Made itinerary or customise to create your own unique journey.](#)
[Departs daily to suit your travel plans. Price based on Standard accommodation.](#)

Join us on this 8-day itinerary and discover the secrets of Chile. Starting in Santiago, a city framed by the Andes Mountains, offering wonderful museums, colourful colonial architecture, appealing day trips, and delicious food and wine. Continue to Casablanca Valley, a beautiful wine region right outside the city. Sample local wines and enjoy other activities such as hikes through the vineyards, biking or horseback riding before continuing to Valparaiso, one of the most unique cities in South America and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Explore the steep, labyrinthine streets of the most interesting and colourful hills, visit one of Valparaiso's notable museums, and perhaps take one of the many funicular elevators that the city is famous for.

Discover the Atacama Desert, far from being a desolate, arid wilderness, the Atacama Desert is overflowing with life. Its ancient cultures offer a warm welcome to modern travellers, and fertile oases sustain an astonishing diversity of life here in the world's driest desert.

On the high Andean plateau, you'll find small villages at up to 4,000 meters above sea level where timeless traditions linger in extreme and wonderfully photogenic settings.

Visit San Pedro de Atacama and explore its singular landscapes, quite unlike anywhere

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else on earth. Vast salt flats, active geysers and intense blue lagoons are just a few of the extraordinary features of this region. Journey to the stars and learn more about the constellations in one of the many famed astronomical observatories in the northern half of Chile.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival transfer in Santiago

On arrival at Santiago Airport, please make your way through Customs and Immigration and only exit from the green doors marked 'Meeting Point'. Our representative will be holding a sign with your name on it and waiting for you outside this exit. Please only make contact with our representative. This service includes a driver and local English speaking guide who will provide you with any useful information needed for your stay.



DAY 1: Santiago de Chile

Santiago, Chile’s capital and largest city, lies in a valley surrounded by the snow-capped mountains of the Andes and the Chilean Coastal Range. Founded in 1541, Santiago has been Chile’s capital since colonial times. It is a vibrant and cosmopolitan city and although it features many colonial buildings, it has grown into a modern metropolis and the cultural centre of the country.



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DAY 1: Santiago Panoramic City Tour

This morning, you will be collected from your hotel for your tour of Santiago. Visit both the old and new areas of the city. Highlights include the Plaza de Armas, the city's central square and the heart of the city's old colonial core. The Plaza de Armas is home to the beautiful 18th century Metropolitan Cathedral, the early 19th century Royal Court Palace that houses the Natural History Museum and the Central Post Office completed in 1882. Will continue along the Government Palace and where we will have the opportunity to walk through some of the most traditional streets and neighbourhoods. Visit Cerro Santa Lucia, the hill on which Santiago was founded in 1541, now a park with fountains and stairs leading to a fort and panoramic viewpoint across the city. On completion of your tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is small group tour and only operates in the morning.



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DAY 2: Valparaiso & Casablanca valley

This morning, you will be collected from your hotel and travel west towards the Pacific Ocean. Our first stop will be in the Casablanca Valley, famous for its many wineries and towns full of Chilean traditions. Vines were first planted here in the mid 1980's and the area is known for its cool climate white wines, most notably Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay, as well as Pinot Noir. The region's world class wineries are mostly located along the road and we will visit one of them to enjoy a premium wine tasting before continuing on to Valparaiso. Valparaiso is a historic port and is known as the "Jewel of the Pacific" and the cultural capital of Chile with festivals every year and a number of street artists and musicians. Its charming, picturesque and colourful houses are set on cobblestone alleyways in the hills that surround the city, creating a natural amphitheatre. In the 19th century, Valparaiso saw an influx of European immigrants. The historic quarter of Valparaiso was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2003 based on its unique architecture and urban design. The city's system of funicular lifts was declared one of the world's most endangered historical treasures by the World Monuments Fund in 1996. A short drive along the coast will allow us to have a perfect view of the hills and the city. We walk around the town to discover hidden treasures such as art galleries, small cafes and breweries. Lunch is not included however restaurants will be recommended to you with time allowed for you to enjoy lunch. In the afternoon, return to Santiago and you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a private tour.



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DAY 3: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight. This service includes a Spanish speaking driver only.



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DAY 3: Arrival transfer in Atacama

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. This service includes a driver and local English speaking guide who will provide you with any useful information needed for your stay.



DAY 3: San Pedro city tour and Quito visit

San Pedro de Atacama is the archaeological capital of Chile. The small oasis town is one of the main cultural settlements in Atacama situated near the mouth of the main river that feeds the salt flat. It lies on an arid high plateau in the Andes Mountains in the heart of some of northern Chile’s most spectacular scenery. Overlooking the Lincancabur Volcano, its dramatic surrounding landscape ranges from desert, salt flats, steaming geysers and hot springs to fascinating rock formations. In San Pedro de Atacama we will visit the Padre Le Paige Museum that displays a significant anthropological collection from the Atacama civilization. We visit the cobbled square (plaza) with its old pepper trees and handicraft markets. We also visit the Church of San Pedro, built in 1774 from adobe, cactus wood, chañar and algarrobo with leather-bound beams. Still preserved to this day, the church has been a national monument since 1951. We continue on to the “Pukara Quito”. Dating back to the 12th century, it is an important defensive fortress of the Atacama culture, located 3 kilometres from San Pedro de Atacama. Covering an area of 2.5 hectares and with a strategic location, the Pukara de Quito is not only important for the local history, but for the history of Chile through the 1540 Battle of Quito, one of the first conflicts between the Spaniards and Indians. At the end of the tour we return you to your hotel.



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DAY 3: Archeological Quito & Tulo Tour

This morning you will be collected from your hotel for a tour of San Pedro de Atacama, the archaeological capital of Chile. The small oasis town is one of the main cultural settlements in Atacama located near the mouth of the main river that feeds the salt flat. It lies on an arid high plateau in the Andes Mountains in the heart of some of northern Chile’s most spectacular scenery. During this excursion, visit the most important archaeological sites of San Pedro de Atacama. In the XII century aborigines built the fortress of Quito to defend their people to the attack of enemies, foreigners or border natives. Tulo village is the oldest archeological human establishment of the entire region and it was occupied between 300BC and 500AC. Also visit the ayllu de Coyo, most important part of the archaeological route. There you will find circular constructions, antiques Lickanantay’s residences and can appreciate the original fauna and flora. On completion of the tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.



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DAY 4: Atacama Salt Lake & Toconao Tour

This afternoon you will be collected from your hotel to visit the Salar de Atacama, one of the world’s largest salt lakes and the most important lithium reserves in the world. At Chaxa Lagoon, we will be able to enjoy watching a variety of bird species, including the three types of flamingos that inhabit Chile -Andean, Chilean and James’- and the pink color of their feathers. The deep blue of the Atacama sky, the altitudes of the Andean volcanos and the red sunset will bid us farewell before returning to San Pedro de Atacama. En route to the Salt Lake, visit the town of Toconao. The houses in this small picturesque village are built from bricks of white volcanic stone and its friendly inhabitants are famous for their fine wool knitting skills. On completion of the tour you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.



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DAY 5: Moon Valley Tour

This afternoon, you will be collected from your hotel to travel across Cordillera de la Sal (Salt Mountain Range) to reach the Valle de la Luna (Valley of the Moon), one of the main attractions of this region. Located 19km from San Pedro de Atacama, the valley's landscape resembles the surface of the moon with small but sharp crested hills created by the wind. This tour is available only in the afternoon when the setting sun brings out the best of the valley's incredible colours. On completion of this tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.



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DAY 6: Atacama Tatio Geysers

Early this morning you will be collected from your hotel for your full day tour to the Tatio Geysers. Located 90 km northwest of San Pedro, the Tatio Geysers sit at an altitude of 4,320 metres above sea level and are said to be the highest geothermal field in the world. See the 100 geysers erupt water and let off steam to heights of up to 50 metres. Surrounded by spurts of water and vapor, enjoy the beauty of the Andes in its natural scenery. Then visit “Pozón Rústico”, where you will delight in the thermal waters the mountain range provides. On the way back to your hotel, drive downhill through a wonderful landscape where you can spot guanacos, vicuñas, flamingos and other wildlife. Please note this is a small group tour.



DAY 7: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

Transfer to the airport for your outward flight from San Pedro de Atacama.



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DAY 7: Arrival transfer in Santiago

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DAY 8: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard
Inclusions	Private airport transfers Accommodation with breakfast daily Tours as stated on itinerary Sightseeing with local English-speaking guide Other meals where stated Exclusions International flights Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Beverages Personal expenses Gratuities for tour guide/driver Any items not mentioned as included
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request. Contact us for more details.

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Notes

All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.
This is a Tailor-Made itinerary which can be customised to create your own unique journey. Contact us to discuss your travel plans.

Price Dependent upon

Season and availability.

SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore remain culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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